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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 108283
ORIGIN EB-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-02 ISO-00 /005 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: EB/ORF/FSE: RRMARTIN: KG
APPROVED BY:EB/ORF/FSE: RRMARTIN
----------131827Z 106308 /44
P 131600Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT DHAHRAN 545 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ABU DHABI DOHA JIDDA TEHRAN KUWAIT MANAMA BAGHDAD RIYADH MAY 12.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DHAHRAN 545
E.O. 11652 GDS:
TAGS EN
B SA
SUBJECT: FIRE AT ARAMCO'S ABQAIQ FACILITY -- OIL COMPANY ISSUES PRESS RELEASE.

REF: DHAHRAN 544

1. RE PARA 4 OF REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS ARAMCO PRESS RELEASE WHICH OIL COMPANY HAS PROVIDED POST. ARAMCO'S PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT PRESS RELEASE IS EMBARGOED UNTIL 11 PM LOCAL TIME (OR 4 PM WASHINGTON TIME).

2. QUOTE DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, MAY 12, A PIPELINE RUPTURE SPRAYED OIL INTO PART OF THE PLANT AREA IN ABQAIQ CAUSING FIRE TO ERUPT AND IT SPREAD RAPIDLY, A SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED HERE TODAY. ONE PUMP STATION WAS HEAV"Y DAMAGED AND IT APPEARS THAT ONE TO THREE NEARBY GAS OIL SEPARATORS AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF CRUDE OIL AND GAS
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PIPELINES WERE DAMAGED. THE
FIRE, WHICH BROKE OUT AT APPROXPMATELY 3:30 PM
ON MAY 11, CLAIMZO THE LIFE OF ONE EMPLOYEE AND HOSPITALIZED 13
OTHERS WITH EJRNS AND OTHER INJURIES. POOLS OF CRUDE OIL INHDVERFLOW
DIKES NEAR THEIHUMP STATION ARE STILL BURNING AND THE FIRES IN THE
UKES 2 WHIVESARE ESPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED FOR SUCH EMERGENCIES, ARE
UNDER CONTROL. HOWEVER, UNTIL THE FIRES ARE EXTINGQUISHED COMPLETELY

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,
IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO
FULLY ACCESS THE DAMAGE AND TMR IMPACT
ON PRODUCTION. AS A RESULT OF THE MISHAP, ALL PRODUCTION IN THE
AREA HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY HALTED. ENGINEERS ARE ALREADY
WORKING ON PLANS TO BYPASS A LARGE PORTION OF THE CRUDE OIL WHICH
NORMALLY PASSES THROUGH THE AFFECTED AREA. A FULL ASSESSMENTOXF
THE DAMAGE IS EXPECTED SOON, A SPOKESMAN SAID.

3. ARAMCO CHAIRMAN JUNGERS ADVISED CONSUL GENERAL LATE IN AFTERNOON
OF MAY 12 THAT HE ANTICIPATED THAT FULL CRUDE PRODUEON
AT ABQAIQ WOULD BE RESTORED RELAQELY CICKLY, AND CERTAINLY, A
GOOD DEAL SOONER THAN MOST OUTSIDERS MIGHT THINK. AN
ARAMCO STAFF MEMBER,RPWHO HAS FOLLOWED CLOSELY ME CURRENT SITUATION
AT ABQAIQ, HAS COMMENTED TO US THAT PR
QJKTION PEOPLE INSIDE
THE OILNCOMPANY ARE CONFIDENT THAT PIPELINES WILL BE
REPAIRED AND IN OPERAZUON QUICKLY ENOUGHT TO PERMIT
THE COMPANY TO MEET ITS MAY PRODUCTION GOAL.
BUSHNELL UNQUOTE CHRISTOP
HER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, FIRES, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D770169-0721
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770561/aaaabzvs.tel
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 21b4a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Reference: 77 DHAHRAN 544
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Subject: FIRE AT ARAMCO\'S ABQAIQ FACILITY -- OIL COMPANY ISSUES PRESS RELEASE.
TAGS: ENRG, SA
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